

Prize Ode,
To be sung at the reinauguration of the Crystal Palace, New York, May 4, 1851.

BY WILLIAM ROSS WALLACE.

The Prize awarded was \$100.

Lo! the transitory darkness
From our Palace floats away;
Lo! the glorious gems of Genius
Glitter in the rising day.

See again the mighty Nations
Meet and clasp each other's palms,
And by Labor's glowing altar
Lift on high according psalms.

Here behold the true Evangel!
Not from War may Earth increase;
God has stamped his shining patent
Only on the brow of Peace.

Only by the arm of Labor,
Swinging to Invention's chime,
Can the Nations build their Eden
In the wilderness of Time.

Nations! hear that mighty music
Rolling through the mountain-bars—
Planting deserts, bridging oceans,
Marrying the choral stars:

Telling that our Crystal Palace
Glorifies the joyous sod—
Making Man, with Art and Nature,
Worthy of the Builder—God!

Nations! then rejoice that darkness
From our Palace floats away,
And the glorious gems of Genius
Glitter in the light of day!

The Ohio Repository, at Canton, Ohio, has completed its 39th year, and has been published continuously all that time by the now venerable John Saxton. This is an extraordinary instance of stability of purpose, in sticking to one business so long; and of an iron constitution, that the business has not killed the man long, long ago; and of industry, economy and perseverance, that he has so long escaped bankruptcy from the business he follows—as that is its general tendency.

The wheat crop is said to look very promising in the vicinity of Lafayette, Ind.

The Blade says there is still a prospect of a moderate fruit crop, including all the varieties in this region. Even peaches, supposed to be the most sensitive of any other kind of fruit, will, unless hereafter destroyed, be reasonably plenty, though by no means as abundant as last year.

Look Out!—The legislature has just passed a law which prohibits the circulation of bank bills from other states of a less denomination than ten dollars! When it gets into operation we shall have a nice time of it.—[Ohio State Journal.]

Just about as much attention will be paid to that law in Ohio as has been paid to similar laws in other states—that is, it will be contemptuously disregarded by universal usage and consent.

Gov. Wood is sick of Valparaiso, and will shortly return home.

The Commercial Bank property, on Main street, Cincinnati, 80 feet front by 75 deep, sold at auction on Monday for \$50,000.

There is only one paper in Egypt—a small monthly sheet, in the Arabic language, at four dollars a year, devoted mainly to the powers that be.

The Gardiner Claim and Mr. Corwin.

The tragical close to the prosecution against Dr. Gardiner has revived all the old and refuted slanders against different distinguished citizens in connexion with that claim. It might have been supposed that these idle tales and rumors would have been definitely silenced by the various statements which have been published, and particularly by the publication of the report of the investigating committee of Congress, with the testimony taken by that committee, which exhibits a full and clear history of the case, so far as the gentlemen alluded to are connected with it.

This, however, it appears, has not been the fact, and slander with her thousand tongues is again let loose with unabated venom.—These malicious efforts appear to be especially directed against the Hon. Thomas Corwin, who in the early stages of the case was connected with it as assistant counsel; and though the testimony taken before the above committee of Congress, as well as various other publications, have fully and truly stated all the facts of Mr. Corwin's connexion with this case, allow me, under the renewal of the injurious insinuations or indirect charges which have recently been revived with so much bitterness in various quarters, to give you the correct facts so far as Mr. Corwin was concerned, though it may be only a repetition of what you and most of your readers may have previously known.

In the first place, though it is not very material to the merits of the question at issue, Mr. Corwin was never employed by Gardiner, nor was he to be paid by him.—Gardiner originally placed his case in the hands of the Hon. Waddy Thompson, of South Carolina, agreeing with him as to the fee for his services, and it was Mr. Thompson who employed Mr. Corwin as associate counsel, and was to pay him a portion of his own fee, without any additional allowance from Gardiner.

These gentlemen, with their other legal associates in the case, Messrs Curtis and Lally, were in the spring of 1850 engaged in the examination of it, and submitted a brief and argument to the Board of Commissioners, who made the usual preliminary decision, that the nature of the claim was one which, if sustained by proper proofs, was of the class entitled to indemnity under the treaty with Mexico; but no investigation or decision was had as to the real merits of the claim or the amount to which it might be entitled.

The case remained in this situation, without further progress, at the death of President Taylor, in July, 1850, when Mr. Fillmore invited Mr. Corwin to take a seat in his Cabinet, which was promptly but respectfully declined; and the reason assigned by Mr. Corwin was that he was engaged as counsel in numerous cases (more than thirty, of which the Gardiner claim was one) before the Commissioners under the Mexican treaty, and, as a matter of delicacy, he could not prosecute those claims before gentlemen who held their commissions at the will of the President whilst he (Mr. Corwin) was one of the confidential advisers of the latter. Mr. Corwin's political and personal friends were however, very anxious for him to enter the Cabinet; and in order to remove his scruples finally induced him, though with considerable reluctance on his part, to sell out his contingent interest in all the claims he represented before the Commissioners, at a valuation to be made by disinterested parties.

In addition to Mr. Corwin's contingent fees in the numerous cases he represented before the Commissioners, he was directly interested in the Gardiner claim, having purchased a portion, and only a portion, of one-fourth of that claim, from a person to whom Gardiner had previously sold it. Mr. C.'s share in this fourth was of course included in the sale of his other interest in the cases before the board, and the purchaser of the whole was George Law, Esq., of New York, to whom the whole interest of Mr. C. was duly assigned, and the purchase money paid in cash, without any reservation or contingency whatever. Mr. Law subsequently sold out to another capitalist of New York, who was the owner of the same when the final decision of the Commissioners was made, and received the amount awarded, which was not until May, 1851, fully ten months after Mr. Corwin had ceased to have any interest in the business. All these facts as to the negotiation of the sale, the details of it, the parties concerned in the negotiations, terms, &c., are fully stated in the testimony before the committee of Congress; and that Mr. Corwin made the sale and divested himself of all the interests before he entered the Cabinet of Mr. Fillmore. It was also proved that he not only never subsequently appeared before the Commissioners, but that he positively refused even to consult with his late legal associates on the subject of the claim.

Here allow me to correct the assertion so often made that Mr. Corwin received \$80,000 for his interest in the Gardiner claim, when the fact is, less than one-third of that sum was for the Gardiner claim, after deducting the original purchase money, which he paid for his interest; the balance was for his contingent fees in the other cases before the Board, some of which were admitted in whole or in part, and some entirely rejected, as either not coming under the provisions of the treaty, or not being supported by sufficient testimony; and, without being able to vouch positively for the fact, I understand that Mr. Law, or rather the person who was the purchaser from him, did not make any money by the speculation. The following is then a recapitulation of the facts of this case so far as Mr. Corwin is concerned, all of which are fully sustained by the report of the committee of Congress and the accompanying testimony annexed thereto:

1. That Mr. Corwin divested himself of all interest, directly or indirectly, as counsel or otherwise, in that claim before he entered the Cabinet of Mr. Fillmore in July, 1850.

2. That the proofs in support of the claim were neither completed nor laid before the commissioners at the time Mr. Corwin's connection with the claim ceased; and one of the principal documents in support of it was acknowledged before and certified to by the American consul at Monterey, in Mexico, towards the close of August, 1850, six weeks after Mr. Corwin had sold out his interest.

3. That the Commissioners at the above time had taken no action, and come to no decision as to the pecuniary merits of the claim, and did not make their award until the following year.

4. That Mr. Corwin had no interest, direct or indirect, in that decision, and it did not make to him a pecuniary difference to the extent of one cent whether the claim of Gardiner had been finally rejected altogether, or double the amount awarded that the Commissioners finally agreed upon.

5. That no portion of the money paid on this claim from the Treasury was ever received by Mr. Corwin, or that he was benefited by such payment in any way, directly or indirectly.

All disinterested and candid minds, I think, will agree that Mr. Corwin in the whole business was guided by a high sense of propriety and delicacy, which should shield him from the unmerited censure which has been so unsparingly heaped upon him.

The investigating committee of Congress, in their report, page 7, say:

"The Hon. Thomas Corwin resigned his seat in the United States Senate and accepted the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury, in July 1850. In the same month and previous to going into the Cabinet of President Fillmore, as Secretary of the Treasury, a sale of his fee, interest in, and also of his half of the one-fourth part of the Gardiner claim was negotiated, through the intervention of Gov. Young, of New York, to George Law, Esq. From this time the said Thomas Corwin refused to act as counsel, or consult with the other counsel who had been associated with him in relation to the same, and took no further part in the Gardiner claim. The assignment of his fee interest and his interest in the Gardiner claim, and all his interest in all other claims before the board of commissioners, (twenty-seven in number,) was executed by Thomas Corwin to Jacob Little, of New York, and the money for the purchase was then paid by George Law, to whom the assignment to Jacob Little was transferred.

No testimony has been before this committee proving or tending to prove that the Hon. Thomas Corwin had any knowledge that the claim of said Gardiner was fraudulent, or that false testimony and forged papers had been or were to be procured to sustain the same."

It will be recollected that a majority of the Committee were political opponents of Mr. Corwin, and that they made a unanimous report. The ridiculous rumor, among others, that the papers to sustain this case were got up in Washington, is simply absurd. This was fully disproved on the trial, where the whole scheme and plan of operations were fully disclosed, with the names

of the parties in Mexico who were the accomplices in the fraud. The certificates of our consuls at Mexico and Monterey to some of the signatures (for all of the latter were not forgeries) also prove the papers were prepared there, and in particular the document already alluded to, which the American consul at Monterey testified before the jury on the first trial, was presented to him by Dr. Gardiner, in company with a Mexican, in August, 1850, at Monterey.

The whole of this fraud was got up with such consummate skill as was well calculated to deceive the most astute, and the previous and subsequent conduct of Dr. Gardiner was such as to carry a strong conviction that he was innocent. Long after it was denounced as a fraud, I was among those who, with a pretty general knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the case, had a full belief in the genuineness of the claim, a belief which was first shaken by the refusal of Dr. Gardiner to accompany the commission appointed by President Fillmore to proceed to Mexico and point out his mine. The information brought back by that commission, and the other proof produced on both trials, leave no shadow of doubt that it was one of the most bold-faced and audacious impositions ever practised upon this or any other government.

The "Union," I see, makes an attempt to attach a stigma, in consequence of the transaction, to the Whig party, and the late Whig administration. If the rule is to hold good that all frauds, peculations, and defalcations committed under any administration is to attach to it or its party, I wonder where the Democratic party would find itself for all the peccadilloes committed under its rule, particularly under the Van Buren dynasty?

The "Union" seems to forget that the result of the recent trial, the exposure of the fraud, and the securing of so large a portion of the money, is exclusively owing to the promptness and energy of action by the late Administration, upon the first information that fraud was suspected.

The Treasury department, on the very first intimation, took immediate steps for securing the money which Gardiner, who was then in Europe, had left behind him, as will be seen by the correspondence in the published testimony before the committee of Congress.

Mr. Fillmore also directed the employment of the Hon. Henry May as additional counsel in the case, and as one of the commission to proceed to Mexico, and who, with Mr. Fendall, the U. S. District Attorney, has prosecuted the case with the greatest zeal, energy and ability until the late result. On this point I quote the testimony of the United States District Attorney, given before the committee of Congress, in answer to the following question from one of the committee:

Q. Has the Executive Department of the Government exhibited promptness and diligence in the investigation of this matter of Gardiner since there was a suspicion of fraud, and in prosecuting measures to save the treasury from loss?

A. Yes, Sir. It is impossible that the Executive branch of the Government could have shown more solicitude than it has done to have this matter investigated, the cause of public justice vindicated. The President throughout has acted in the spirit of the instructions which, as I have stated, he gave me at the beginning. Every facility for promoting these objects has been given by every officer of the Government whose official duties brought him in connection with the subject; but none more cordially or more earnestly than by Mr. Corwin, the Secretary of the Treasury.

In conclusion, I will only add that the friends of Mr. Corwin in this city are well satisfied that Congress has determined to make a further investigation into the subject, the result of which, they are fully convinced, will set at rest all the ridiculous and slanderous rumors which have been put afloat in connection with his name, and which have their foundation only in a morbid hankering after slander or from political or personal enmity.—[Washington Correspondent of the N. Y. Express.]